Agreement with Myanmar

3765. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government entered into an agreement with Myanmar to secure cooperation in fighting terrorism, organized crime, narcotics trafficking, etc.;

(b) whether such agreements has been entered into with many other countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) India and Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Non-traditional Security Issues during the State visit of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) of Myanmar to India from October 25-29, 2004. Under this MoU, both countries have agreed to cooperate on non-traditional security issues such as terrorism, arms smuggling, drug trafficking, organised crime etc. The first meeting of the India-Myanmar Consultative Group on Non-Traditinoal Security Issues was held in New Delhi on February 10-11, 2005.

(b) and (c) Government has established mechanisms, including Joint Working Groups with several countries for strengthening cooperation to combat terrorism. These provide a framework for cooperation in various ways, including through exchange of information and assessments on terrorism, tranining and curbing drug trafficking and capacity building.

Restroration of democracy in Bhutan

†3766. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI : Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the King of Bhutan has indicated the restroration of democracy in his country;

(b) if so, how Government of India have taken his stand; and

(c) whether India is ready to help SAARC Nations to help in restoration of democracy in their countries through SAARC?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.